

What are some reasons we might doubt that God is making all things new? When have you seen God make changes in circumstances or individuals that exceeded your expectations?

*All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.
-Psalms 119:160 NIV*

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 NLT*

An important component of being made new is learning from God's word. According to the Psalmist, all of God's words are true. And Timothy supports that when he says all scripture is useful to teach us. What does Timothy tell us the Scripture is able to do for us? Are there parts of the bible you tend to skip over or ignore in your studies?

As we read God's word, we find that He invites us to draw near and to surrender to allow Him to make us new. Our transformation is a process. We return to God continually, allowing Him to shape us into the new creation He intends us to be.

WRAP-UP

Easter is a joyous time to celebrate Jesus rising from the grave and breaking the power of sin and death over us. Jesus' victory over death changed everything... for his disciples, for our world and for your life. Jesus is still alive and well, and He is making us into a new creation.

MEMORY VERSE

*17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the living one. I died, but look--I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.
- Revelation 1:17-18 NLT*

Challenge- Explore the pages of Scripture which you seldom read and allow God to open your eyes to something new He has for you.

Everything New
Easter Sunday 2024

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday we celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection is the source of the greatest hope of the believer. Death lost its power over us when Jesus paid the price to atone for our sins and wiped away our debt. And even though these mortal bodies will pass away, we will live in the presence of God eternally. In fact, we are promised that a time is coming when all things will be made new. That includes us!

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are hanging on to that you wish could be returned to its original condition?

Key Passage

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." - Revelation 21:5 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Jesus is Alive

The good news of Easter is that the tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive. Sometimes, because this event is thousands of years behind us, we forget how amazing this is. Jesus came back to life on that first Easter morning and is alive still! But because he is no longer present on the earth, this might be difficult to comprehend. In our minds we might see Him being alive 2000 years ago but miss the fact that He is alive and well even today. We might only think of Him living on that first Easter day that He was found by the women near the tomb. But confining Jesus in the graveyard would be a mistake.

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?" - Luke 24:5 NLT

I am the living one. I died, but look--I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.
- Revelation 1:18 NLT

Let's reword the question the women were asked and ask this instead, "Why are we confining Jesus to the past when He is alive today?" How would your prayers be different if Jesus was seated in your living room rather than in heaven? What is the significance for you that He holds the keys of death and the grave?

Allow yourself to be amazed and awed by the truth the women discovered on that first Easter- Jesus is alive!

2. Everything New

5a And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"... - Revelation 21:5a NLT

28 Jesus replied, "I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." - Matthew 19:28 NLT

When we look around us, it is impossible to miss the broken, damaged, and spoiled elements of our world. Sin has marred all of God's creation, including mankind. What God created was good, but what we see now is only a dim reminder of what God intended it to be.

If God gave up on the imperfect remnants of creation, what would remain? What is the difference between making new things and making things new? Jesus promised his 12 disciples that they would join Him when the world is made new. How does that help us understand what will happen to us as His followers, as well as the world we live in?

God doesn't abandon or give up on us because we are imperfect, no matter how damaged we are. Let's reflect on the impact of Revelation 21:5 and its significance in light of Jesus' resurrection.

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

- *Who is the source of "newness" in Rev 21:5? If we are looking for something else to "fix us" we will be badly disappointed. There is only one way to be made new. How are we made new? (2 Co 5:17)*
- *What is the significance of the use of the present tense (making) rather than past (made) or future tense (will make)? Can you see ways that God has changed you since you began to follow Him? What things in your life are still being changed as He makes you new?*
- *What did Jesus say that assures you that nothing is beyond His ability to make new? Is there something or someone you have giving up on as a lost cause? Pause to ask Jesus to restore your hope that he can make it new.*
- *There are several Greek words that are translated as "new". In Rev 21:5 the word used is kainos, which means a new form or a new kind. When you think about the resurrected Jesus, what are some of the qualities that demonstrate He is Kainos? (see Luke 24:31, John 20:26-27, John 20:19)*

3. Trustworthy and True

21:5b ...And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." - Revelation 21:5b NLT

It is difficult to believe that John could stand in the presence of Jesus in heaven and doubt that what He said is true. But in Rev 21:5 Jesus gives us an explicit assurance that what we are reading is the truth and the one who spoke it can be trusted.